/192 cont./

Adornments

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/The first paragraph of this section, pp. 192-193, is omitted in the translation. The following illustration appears opposite p. 193, and the remainder of p. 193 follows./

181 The Chiriguano, although they occupy a very lowly place in this corner of the world, although they have little in the way of grandeur and show to display and take pride in, follow the common tendency of humanity, almost as the beast follows its instincts. Without any fear of error, if the Chiriguano were to possess great riches, he would probably invest them in his vices and in the adornment of his body.

302 [292] [574] When the Chiriguano wants to make a formal visit, he washes his body, dresses in his best clothing, and paints his face with achiote powder. The preparation of achiote seeds has been described in the preceding pages in the discussion of the flora /see p. 32/. Here I add that in order for the Urucú to be fixed on the Indian's skin it is necessary that he first soften his face, or the part that he wants to paint or embellish, with palma Christi oil.

751 302 It has already been seen that the region is hot and that atmospheric changes are very sudden; a period of extreme heat can be followed by severe cold, and in these changes the Chiriguano's skin becomes chapped. To avoid this nuisance, men and women paint their faces and their feet with the cosmetic. [527] [758] They also use it during public drinking sessions, at banquets, and during the preparation of chicha in order to ward off the high heat, as well as during convalescence and after having recovered from smallpox (1).

1. Achiote powder with palma Christi oil is cool in hot weather and warm in cold weather. The neophytes in the missions no longer use it, or, if they do, it is sparingly and as a remedy. [178]

[Text continues on p. 267]

/284 cont./

000 The philosopher Foción said that he who has the fewest desires to satisfy is the happiest man on earth. This is a truth based on experience, but it is not true happiness; it is part of it, because complete happiness is not attained here.

The true Chiriguano dressed in the old way and his wife with her tipoy must have been the happiest beings on earth, but as they are children of the first man, they also inherited affliction, pain, and death. These three things are almost always the consequence of illness, and they come from the intemperate life that I have described, just as they also come from the drinking and eating.

515 751 [262] [252] [271] [273] The Chiriguano takes no care of his person, although he loves life, which he would like to be eternal, however much he may walk dragging himself along. His foodstuffs are not at all hygienic; he eats /illustration appears here/ /285/ often and with too much greed rotten meat, vegetables, and maize itself, which he parches but never cooks completely. The water he drinks is not always clear or free of microbes and small worms that are visible; the very chicha that is manufactured with such elaborate effort and care is drunk still sour, and, finally, shelter is unimportant. In periods of great heat he lies on the ground, taking on his back the burning rays of the sun; he protects himself little in the abrupt changes of temperature, and if he gets wet in the rain or has taken a voluntary bath of cold water or water heated by the sun, he lets his clothes dry on his body; from these come the illnesses that I shall presently enumerate, illnesses that he suffers from, which make him unhappy and then carry him to the grave.

753 821 The rainbow that God gave to Noah as a sign that He would not flood humanity again with the waters of a new deluge is a sad sign for the Chiriguano. If this so natural phenomenon appears in a town and begins in front of or over a house, when it disappears it does not end or turn to nothing but hides itself in the belly of one of the residents, who in time will get sick and die of dropsy, from which it follows that this illness, which is rare among them, is caused by the rainbow (1).

1. Another natural phenomenon is the whirlwind.

[TEXT Continues on p. 385]

/285 cont./

753 821 which rises continually to the sky in these interminable plains, taking behind it all of the trash that it finds along its way. It is called Cusumino, and, according to them, it causes pains in the feet, knees, and bones. When a whirlwind begins in a town, they try to cut it with a knife.

Illnesses and Remedies

164 The most common illnesses among the Chiriguano are the intermittent fevers that are endemic, tuberculosis or consumption, eye disease, convulsive coughing, diarrhea, dysentery, mange or itch, and tumors accompanied by a kind of leprosy that covers a large part of the body. The intermittent fevers appear at the time of the first rains and continue until the time of the fruits and fresh maize. These fevers are not fatal, but one who is attacked by them has a rather afflicted life. Their remedies are vegetal; 757 they boil quebracho or algarroba bark, and they drink this water, but it does not always have a salutary effect. /286/ If a small dose of quinine is administered during the intermittent fevers, they immediately get well (1).

1. They get well with a small dosage, perhaps because their bodies are not accustomed to the remedies of the apothecary. Another efficacious remedy for the intermittent fevers is bitter coffee or coffee with a little sugar.

164 The itch, tumors, and leprosy do not cause death. 262 Chiriguano food is almost always saltless. They are not careful 263 in selecting it, and stinking meat does not disgust them. Their 751 water is not always clear; they bathe at any hour and, after bathing, 515 do not dry their bodies. If it rains, they let the wet clothing dry 080 on their person. From this and other causes come the many skin